EXCISE

Department of State

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ACTION ARA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2287
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 7283

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E.O. 12065: XDS-4 9/5/99 (AMOTT, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 5

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7200

1. (S) SUMMARY: KNOWN AUGUST DISAPPEARANCES MAY NOW TOTAL 12. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOA MAY REVEAL THAT SOME IF NOT ALL OF THESE DISAPPEARANCES WERE RELATED TO THE BREAK UP OF TERRORIST OPERATIONS. THE IAHRC SEEMED TO BE FORGING AHEAD. END SUMMARY.

2. (LOU) DISAPPEARANCES -----
TWO MORE DISAPPEARANCES IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST CAME TO OUR ATTENTION SINCE OUR LAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP. THE AUGUST 30 DISAPPEARANCE OF RAUL ARAMENDI WAS REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY BY HIS MOTHER AND WIFE (BUENOS AIRES 7324).
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IN ADDITION, ON SEPTEMBER 5 UPI REPORTED THE AUGUST 30

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PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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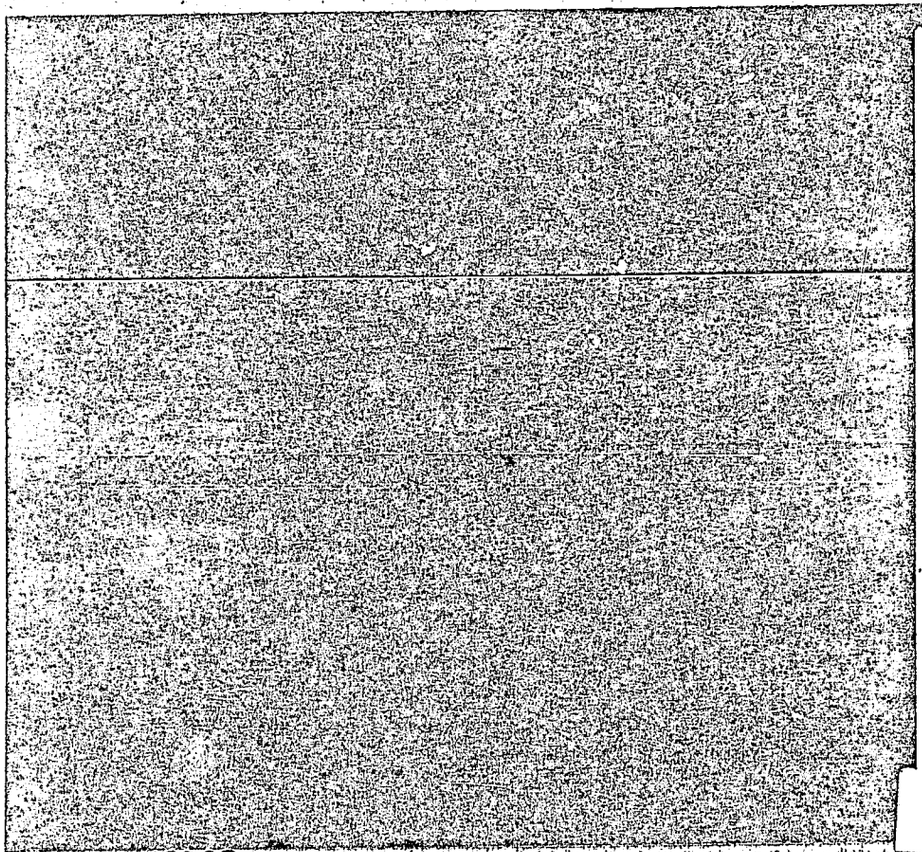
DISAPPEARANCE OF OSCAR ROMERO, A RAILWAY FOREMAN. WE ARE CHECKING THE VALIDITY OF THIS LAST REPORT WITH ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.



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4. (C) IAHRC VISIT -----

THE IAHRC PREPARATIONS CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK. REFERRING

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TO THE VISIT PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED PUBLICLY AUGUST 30 "ARGENTINA HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND EVEN LESS TO BE ASHAMED OF." MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE TEAM CLAIMED THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE BEING TOO CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE POLICE, A COMPLAINT, WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHERS, THAT CAUSED THE CLOSE SUPERVISION TO CEASE. (FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THE EMBASSY IS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN A DISTANCE FROM THE IAHRC DURING ITS VISIT AND WE SHALL NOT BE SEEKING CONTACT WITH IT.) ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES HAVE NOTED TO US... THAT THE RECENT RAIDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAS...

CAUSED PEOPLE TO SHY AWAY FROM APPROACHING THEM. ONE SOURCE ALSO EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE RECENT PUBLIC TENSION BETWEEN THE GOA AND USG HAS MADE PEOPLE MORE

NOTE BY OC/T: CAUTION: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 7283

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FEARFUL OF APPROACHING THIS EMBASSY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS (ALTHOUGH DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THE FREQUENCY OF APPROACHES TO US HAVE BEEN IN LINE WITH PAST PATTERNS). NEVERTHELESS PEOPLE SEEM TO BE ANXIOUS *TO GET THEIR STORY TO IAHRC AND NOBODY HAS SUGGESTED TO* US THAT RECENT ACTIONS BY THE GOA HAVE DISSUADED THOSE DESIRING TO MAKE COMPLAINTS. TO THE CONTRARY THE SOURCE WHO CLAIMS THAT PEOPLE MAY NOW HESITATE BEFORE COMING TO THE EMBASSY STATES THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT AFRAID OF GOING *TO THE IAHRC. IN THE ARGENTINE "ESTABLISHMENT" FORMER* PRESIDENT ONGANIA HAS PUBLICLY REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE COMMISSION ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WHILE FORMER PRESIDENT LANUSSE, AFTER LONG SEMI-PUBLIC DELIBERATION, HAS COME TO AN OPPOSITE CONCLUSION. THE PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF THE FACT THAT AMONG THE COMMISSION'S FIRST INTERVIEWS WILL BE MRS. PERON, LABOR EMINENCE GRISE LORENZO MIGUEL
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AND JACOBO TIMERMAN. THESE FIGURES ARE NEUTRALLY OR [illegible]
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CONSERVATIVE ARGENTINES ABOUT THE MISSION'S INTENTIONS AND PURPOSE.

5. (LOU) CHURCH VOICES ON HUMAN RIGHTS -----
WHILE SOME CHURCHMEN HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECENTLY, TWO VOICES WERE RAISED ON THE OTHER SIDE LAST WEEK. THE RECTOR OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY WHO IS ALSO AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LA PLATA, A CITY WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WERE PARTICULARLY INTENSE, OCTAVIO DERISI, CRITICIZED THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AS A DEVICE TO ATTACK ARGENTINA. HE LEVELED AN ACCUSING FINGER AT THE UNITED STATES, STATING THE US HAS NOTHING TO TEACH ANYBODY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF AMERICA'S TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS ABORTIONS. ALSO CARDINAL EDUARDO PIRONIO, WHO USED TO BE THE BISHOP OF LA PLATA AND IS NOW ON THE VATICAN STAFF, *TOLD THE ARGENTINE PRESS THAT ARGENTINA'S IMAGE IN EUROPE* IS A GOOD ONE, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TWO SIDES OF THE COIN AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO FIND THE NEGATIVE."

6. (C) LATE NEWS -----
WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT TWO MORE OF THE AUGUST DISAPPEAREDS CALLED THEIR HOMES LAST WEEK--HASSAN AND VILLAFLOR.
CASTRO

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